

1568- Newsletter - Jr. School

— AMERICAN SCHOOLS OF ORIENTAL RESEARCH
— JERUSALEM AND BAGHDAD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWSLETTER

Confidential

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Newsletter #8

1949-50

Beirut, August 24, 1950.

Dear Friends:

We are in Beirut trying to find a ship home after having had our passage cancelled on two ships. The enforced delay, however, gives us a little time to write a Newsletter. Professor F.V. Winnett and family arrived safely and the School gave a tea in their honor. About 125 attended and the new Director was happy to renew many old friendships. The fact that he is an Arabic specialist gave him a warm welcome in the city and the newsmen were present to get the story.

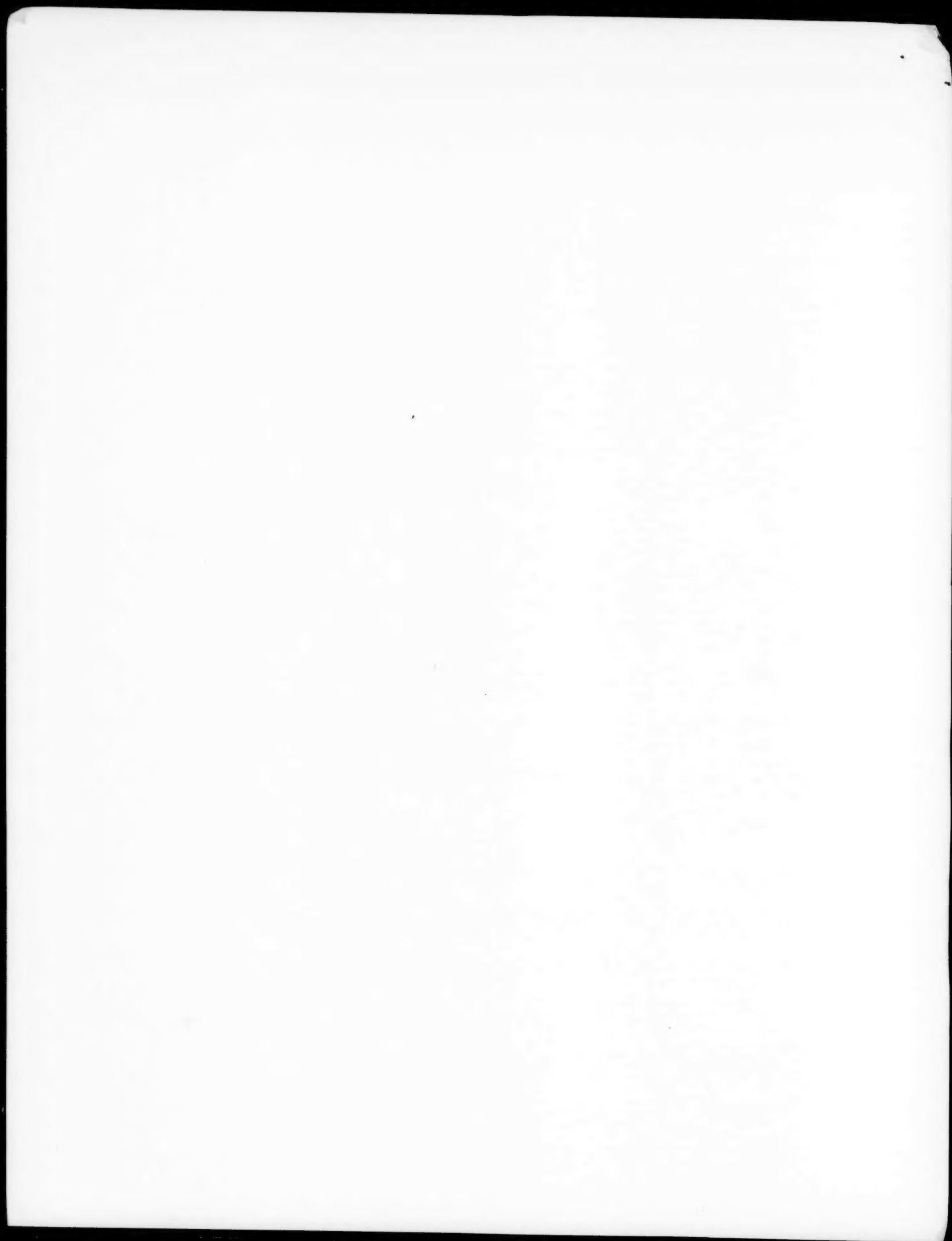
The School has been full most of the summer. Professor Robert Kinsey and family of Thiel College made the longest stay. Many trips were taken to archaeological sites. New roads give easy access to many places which were formerly hard to reach. The archaeologists on the staff were preparing the Jericho and Nitla materials for publication. Professor Kenneth Clark continued his microfilming at the Greek Patriarchate, and Miss Lucetta Mowry, one of the new Fellows, was his assistant.

A resumé of minor archaeological work on the western side of the Jordan is given as follows by Mr. Arvin Dagani, Inspector of Antiquities of Jerusalem. In the Hebrew District of Assamu, a rock-cut tomb of the late Bronze Age was cleared. A hoard of Byzantine gold coins of the 5th and 6th Centuries came from the Nablus district. In the Wadi Beiden, a tomb chamber of the 5-6th Century A.D. was opened. A unique chalice was found and a glass weight with a snake (?) seal upon it. At Bireh a crusader chamber, columns and bronze coins were found. At El Geeb a rock-cut tomb from Iron I & II yielded a large amount of pottery.

The major continuing dig is that of Father Saller at Bethany where he is still working on a most interesting Byzantine church with two phases of history and also a Crusader church. The ground upon which they were built is held in place by a very high, massive retaining wall, giving an entirely different contour picture to the ground from that of today. The finds are published in the "La Terra Santa".

The second large dig is at Ain Farah, where Peré De Vaux has resumed his excavations. At first they were unproductive but are now yielding good data in Iron I & II and the identification of the site with Tirzah now seems certain.

In Transjordan, the Director of Antiquities, Mr. G.L. Harding is still busy erecting a new museum building on Citadel Hill in Amman. The great building boom in Amman has uncovered many tombs and some striking, unique materials have come to light. These will be published in the new annual which the Department of Antiquities is putting out. Mr. Harding is putting special emphasis upon collecting early Arabic inscriptions in Transjordan and Prof. F.V. Winnett is planning to help him in this work.



As our year has drawn to a close we wish to thank publicly Dr. Carl Kraeling for his constant interest and helpfulness in all of the School's projects. At the present writing the future of the next school year looks as favorable as at any time in its history.

Sincerely,

James L. Kelso, Director 1949-50.

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